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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHORLEY.

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Gillibrand Street,
CHORLEY.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1942.

Mr Chairman and Members,

The Ministry of Health has suggested that during the war an abridged annual report should continue to be issued yearly and has issued a circular suggesting the items which should be included whilst the full details and statistics should be filed and retained. This report is on the lines indicated in the circular.

The area has not altered by any new distribution of boundaries and stands at 41,111 acres.

The population is estimated to be 25,900.

The number of inhabited houses is 7,250.

The Rateable Value is £166,478 and a penny rate represents the sum of £645.

The social conditions are those of an Industrial and Agrigultural District. There has been a decline in the number of those employed in the Cotton Mills but this has not caused unemployment as the persons have been absorbed by the other works in the area.

There is still the same number employed in the Coal Mining industry and on agriculture. Consequently there has been no increase in unemployment.

Births.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.	396	200	196
Illegitimate.	15	8	7
	411	208	203

The rate per 1,000 of population is 15.8

Deaths.

Total.	Male.	Female.
285	146	139

The rate per 1,000 of population is 11.0

Stillbirths.

Total	Male.	Female.
22	13	9

The rate per 1,000 births is 50.

Maternal Deaths.

Maternal deaths have numbered 2 giving a rate per 1,000 births of 4.61.

Infantile deaths under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 births.	43
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births.	40
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	133.

Deaths.

From Cancer	43
From Measles	Nil
From Whooping cough	2
From Diarrhoea	3

There has been no material increase in the sickness rate of the population.

The long hours and the new types of employment brought into the area have caused some increase in the sickness rate especially as regards skin diseases.

Medical Officer, (Part-time) John Rigby M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, (Full-time) R.H.Grayson,

Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector, (Full-time) A. Fowler,

Cert. R.S.I.

Laboratory Services and Hospitals.

The Laboratory Services have been supplemented so that work can be done either at Preston or Wigan and so avoid the delay in the postal service of sending swabs to the Clinical Research Association. The Ambulance Service has been maintained as before. Ambulances,for accidents are always available at the Fire Station, and for infectious cases at the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The area is covered by local organisations of the Queens Nursing Services These Nurses are supplied with transport and are able to cover the area.

Additional clinics have operated at the local voluntary Hospital so that the whole range of disabilities is covered including V.D. and skins.

Infectious cases are admitted to the Heath Charnock Joint Hospital Board Hospital in the area but Puerperal Septicaemia is sent to Preston.

Infectious Disease.

There have been no serious outbreaks of Infectious Disease during the year. Measles was prevalent in the Coppull Area and seemed to affect both school children and also those of younger years. No centre of infection required the closing of schools.
The artificial Immunisation of children against diphtheria has increased. The District scheme of getting the children immunised by their own Medical attendant has been adopted and we are now obtaining more immunisations. The schools are periodically canvassed and consent forms completed by parents, these are later forwarded to the different Medical Practitioners who arrange the times of injections By this means 1,030 have been immunised this year.

Whooping cough vaccine has also been made available. No Measles serum has been ~~xxxxxx~~ used.

The Notifiable diseases have been as follows.

Notifiable Diseases.	Total cases Notified.												
	Total cases at all ages.	Age Periods - Years											
		under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and over.
Smallpox.													
Scarlet Fever	90		3	2	10	10	40	12	6	7			
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	47		1		2	2	10	15	9	5	2	1	
Enteric fever (including Paratyphoid)	2									1	1		
Measles excluding German Measles.	140		13	12	16	24	66	5	3	1			
Whooping cough.	64		8	9	12	9	24			1	1		
Acute pneumonia	16						1		2	4	5	4	
Puerperal pyrexia	2									1	1		
Cerebro-spinal fever.	7		2				3	1			1		
Acute Poliomyelitis													
Acute Polio-encephalitis.													
Encephalitis-lethargica													
Opthalmia neonatorum.	3	3											
Erysipelas	6										2	2	2
Malaria.													
Contracted in this Country-													
Abroad-													
Any other disease notifiable in District													
Any other disease.													
	377	3	27	23	40	45	144	33	20	20	13	7	2

Tuberculosis.

No difficulties have been experienced in the carrying out of the tuberculosis regulations. More cases are being sent to the Tuberculosis Dispensary for Diagnosis when the disease is suspected.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory.	
Years.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-								
1-				4				
5-	1		1	2				
10-				1				
15-		2		3				1
20-	1	2		1	1			
25-	3	4	1		1			1
35-		1	1	1				
45-	3		3				1	1
55-								
65 & upwards.	1							
Totals.	9	9	6	12	2	0	1	3

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The bulk of the water supplied in the area is obtained from the Manchester Corporation who have it under constant supervision.

Scraping of the mains has taken place in the following parishes Coppull, Charnock Richard, Clayton, Whittle-le-Woods.

Sewerage.

The Council have a scheme in course of preparation to improve the drainage of large parts of the district but, unfortunately circumstances have prevented any actual work being carried out.

Closet Accommodation.

It has not been possible to get any large scale conversion of closets carried ou there have however been a few closets converted from privy midden to the pail type. At the end of theyear there were still in the district a large number of privy middens and pail closets.

Scavenging.

Owing to the failure to get sufficient contracts to carry out the work of scavenging in the area the Council was obliged to attempt the work in part of the area by direct labour, a motor refuse collector being obtained for the purpose.

Camping Site.

The only camping licence in force in the Rural District expired in August, application for renewal of the licence was not made.

Considerable difficulty was experienced at an unlicenced site in Coppull, the site was finally cleared when the owner instituted legal proceedings, apart from this the only van dwellers have been people passing through the district and who stayed only a few days.

Smoke Abatement.

No action has been taken during the year.

Disinfestation of Premises.

Three houses infested with bed bugs have been effectively disinfested during the year.

Schools.

With few exceptions the schools in the Area are supplied with water from the public mains.

12 of the 32 schools in the area are on the water carriage system.

Housing.

It has not been possible to carry out routine housing work during the year, only serious defects being dealt with, these under the Public Health Act.

There is no doubt that present day conditions have brought about a considerable amount of overcrowding, even taking into consideration the provision of hostels for workers, but it is hoped that a large number of cases will right themselves in the course.

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Inspection of Food.

The centralisation of slaughtering has relieved the Council of routine inspection of meat, and the matters which have been dealt with under this heading are chiefly canned foods at retailers and food depots.

Milk Supply.

It was not possible to spend as much time on this work as one would have liked, during the year 101 inspections were made.

At the end of the year there were 368 registered producers in the area.

Pasteurised Milk.

There are no plants in the area for pasteurising milk and only one supplementary licence allowing pateurised milk to be retailed in the area was issued during the year.

Disinfections.

166 disinfections were carried out during the year.

Petroleum Licences.

56 licences to store petroleum spirit were issued in 1942.

Inspections.

The total number of inspections made during the year was 1,279.

Informal Notices.

The number of informal notices served was 184.

The number of informal notices complied with was 172.

Statutory Notices.

The number of Statutory Notices served was 1.

This was complied with.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

John Rigby.